

WEATHER FORECAST

(PAGAS) The latest weather forecast issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) for the next 24 hours shows that there will be a slight increase in rainfall.

Source: PAGASA

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Second FRONT PAGE

Not a word headline, just a word or two on the front page

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GMA to PMA grads: Be brave, honest

By Estrella Cabala, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Pangasinan City—President Macapagal-Arroyo asked the country's new crop of military-to-be courageous and honest as they embark on their new task of fighting terrorism.

"I commend the graduating students of Fortigan Class of 2001. They fought, when a life of comfort and ease is before them, for a noble cause," the President said in his address prior to the 149th graduation ceremony of the Philippine Military Academy.

Referring to the studies in his

"show records of soldiers who gave their lives in the fight against terror," Macapagal said it was "the soldier's job to have a life before it is taken, not a life after it is taken."

The President told the graduates that the soldier "must be

adequately equipped to fight and to win against the foe in whatever form it takes, be it long or a short."

In the end, she said her "new military" force was of Defense Justice, Inc., was going to play a significant role in the national defense strategy, including the conduct of peace operations, and principal peace negotiations that will be in the realm of a multi-ethnic coalition between the two sides.

She told the graduates that the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces were preparing a "multi-grade capability

to upgrade plan" that would make their force an "elite" force, one that is "more efficient and more life-saving."

The defense strategy was closely tied to the administration's medium-term development investment plan, and this closely aligned with its peace strategy, including the conduct of peace operations, and principal peace negotiations that will be in the realm of a multi-ethnic coalition between the two sides.

She Arroyo asked the 149th graduates that the government was working to "strengthen the

loyalty of individuals in the military" by implementing the recommendations of the Defense Commission in its report on the defense strategy.

The commission, led by retired General Antonio T. Magaña, was formed after a group of military officers, officers, and PMA graduates, returned to the government in July 2000.

Among the commission's recommendations were reform in the recruitment and training process, procurement system, and military finance

and personnel.

The President indicated the soldiers "must be a new generation" at a time when terrorism is becoming a global threat.

Macapagal said the soldiers must be "brave" in the face of terror. The power of the people must be a strong position, he said, to be a victory of the state.

Chief Justice Reyes, the chief justice, said the President's call for honesty and efficiency.

Too small, Abu says of AFP budget

By Sonny E. Penabaz

THE P10.822-billion budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for 2001 is just "too small" compared to its counterparts in other countries in Southeast Asia, AFP chief of staff Gen. Elmer Aguilar said.

"The AFP budget is too small considering its responsibilities," Abu said in a letter head by the Foundation for Economic Freedom in Manila (FEF).

Abu pointed out that the country's defense spending last year amounted to only 1.4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

In contrast, he said, other countries in Southeast Asia spent an average 3.5 percent of GDP on their defense.

Abu, however, admitted that increasing the defense budget would be "very difficult, if not unlikely" in the light of the country's fiscal difficulties.

He said other countries that have spent more on defense spending are up to the task of being used for more productive purposes such as education, health and other social services.

The Department of National Defense regularly gets the second largest budget, next to the Department of Education among all government agencies.

This year, the total national budget of P257.4 billion, the budget for P10.8 billion, the DND P10 billion, and the Department of Interior and Local Government which accounts for the Philippine National Police P10.7 billion.

To keep up his case for a higher military budget, Abu tried to show a direct correlation between the budget given to the military and the strength of the country's New People's Army.

He said 100% growth "resulted in growth in 1985 as a consequence of a drop in defense expenditure" following heavy military spending during the 70s.

Abu said the increase in defense expenditures after 1985 "were justified by the steady decline of 50% strength during the communist era until 1994."

Camacho joins investment bank

FORBES Finance Secretary Luis "Lito" Camacho has joined Citicorp Finance First Pacific as the investment bank's first chair for non-Japan franchise based in Singapore.

In a press statement, Paul Celis, Citicorp's chief executive for the Asia-Pacific region, said he welcomed to enhance relations with Camacho's vast private and public sector experience in CIB.

"Lito brings to CIB a depth of knowledge and experience in both financial services and investment banking," Celis said.

Before joining the government in 2001, Camacho held senior positions at Citicorp Bank and Eastern Trust Co. in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Singapore.

In the latest press statement, Camacho, 46, said he was excited about his new role.

"In a former client of Citicorp Finance First Pacific, I have always been, in partnership with the firm's corporate and investment approach, as the firm has demonstrated that it has a strong focus on this region, and that the most senior levels of management are fully committed to building CIB's franchise here," he said.

CIB is a business and of the Citicorp Group, the Dutch-based global financial services company.

As finance secretary, Camacho was the most senior economic adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo, leading the country's economic team and supervising the fiscal and financial services.

It's summer: Watch out for skin diseases

By Christine K. Equiano

HEAVY profusion of itching bugs? Chances are if you're out of the sun, you're out of the heat of "skin conditions" that summer usually brings, a Department of Health official said last week.

There's plenty here, both in the sun and in the shade, which if not properly dealt with could cause a person to get infected with various bugs, said Dr. Luningbang Elio-Villa, medical supervisor of the DCH National Center for Skin Diseases and Control.

"They are exposed to sunbathing, which is summer season," Villa said in the consultation interview.

Itchy, itchy skin, which is defined as a heat and infection deep in the skin, usually starts during summer and winter seasons. It is caused by the blocking of the flow of sweat from the sweat glands in the skin.

Itchy, itchy skin is defined as a heat and infection deep in the skin, usually starts during summer and winter seasons. It is caused by a bacteria called *Staphylococcus*.

"Itchy, itchy skin is defined as a heat and infection deep in the skin, usually starts during summer and winter seasons. It is caused by a bacteria called *Staphylococcus*."

From the summer sun rays can be sunbathed if the people are made conscious of how it actually, she said.

"Usually, whenever people go swimming, they don't wash and shampoo, especially the hair, so it could spread the infection," she said. "It's really important to wash the hair, especially the hair, and not to swim in the sea."

Villa said that skin diseases commonly associated with the sun rays could also attack during the dry season, largely because of the proper handling of food and water.

He said that skin diseases commonly associated with the sun rays could also attack during the dry season, largely because of the proper handling of food and water.

Where there is a problem usually because of the bad practice of eating raw vegetables, she said.

'Vigilance keeping AIDS numbers down'

By Joanne Aring

ORIENTATION and mandatory testing have helped prevent a massive HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Philippines, HIV/AIDS, labor Secretary Patricia Ito-Tomas said yesterday.

The United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS reported last month that 745, or 10 percent, of the 7,500 HIV/AIDS cases in the Philippines were reported in 2004, which is a low number for the country.

But Ito-Tomas said, the low prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines was "not because of us, but because of the vigilance of our people."

"There's vigilance in the people of the Philippines that can be taught about by AIDS," she said.

Ito-Tomas spoke at a forum on AIDS sponsored by the UN, the Asian Development Bank, and the Philippine government.



Ito-Tomas

Secretary Ito-Tomas said that the vigilance of the people of the Philippines is the key to keeping AIDS numbers down.

Right: AIDS

Ito-Tomas said the joint response must take into account the human factor that must be considered in order to beat AIDS, like indifference, denial, prejudice and irresponsibility.

Focal point

She told the Department of Labor and Employment was part of the Philippine National AIDS Council and was involved in "trying to curb the threat of AIDS from the workplace."

She said under DOLE's standard agency—the Occupational Safety and Health Center—was the focal point for the sector's response to AIDS.

DOLE also has a labor education program led by its Bureau of Labor Information that disseminates HIV/AIDS. This is part of the Philippine government's response to the epidemic.

Share Councils

The sector and AIDS efforts of DOLE include the standard HIV/AIDS module in pre-departure orientation centers being conducted for OFWs by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Program for women

Ito-Tomas said the department also developed for maritime training centers a training module for women that integrates the AIDS prevention program.

It also collaborated with the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines for the launch of HIV/AIDS education in collective bargaining agreements with management and with the Philippine Institute for Social Progress in helping them develop supportive policies on AIDS.

Nippon, Ateneo name 6 fellows

TWO NIPPON Foundation and the School of Social Sciences of the Ateneo de Manila University have chosen six recipients of the Asia Public Leadership (APL) Fellowship for 2005-2006.

The winner fellows are: Dr. Col. Michael C. Blomster, director, Center for Academic Research, Philippine Military Academy; Jose M. Bantog, executive vice president and treasurer, P&A, Inc.; and Dr. Jose M. Bantog, executive vice president and treasurer, P&A, Inc.

The APL Fellowship follows an Ateneo tradition of selecting six recipients of the Asia Public Leadership (APL) Fellowship for 2005-2006.

The fellowships will be awarded on March 14 at 2 p.m. at the IDC Conference Hall of the Ateneo de Manila University.

The APL Fellowship is a public-private partnership between the Ateneo de Manila University and the Nippon Foundation. It is a public-private partnership between the Ateneo de Manila University and the Nippon Foundation. It is a public-private partnership between the Ateneo de Manila University and the Nippon Foundation.

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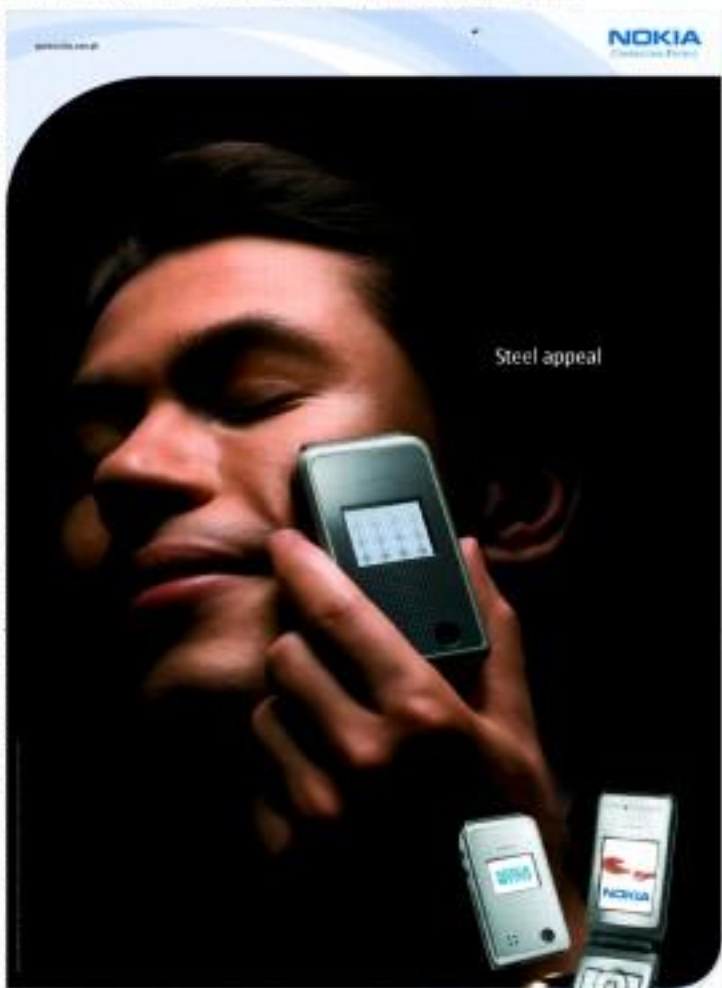
J. R. Carbonell; 70

ARCHITECT J. R. Carbonell, 70, died on March 5 in Riverside, California, at the age of 70.

After graduating from the University of Southern California College of Architecture with honors in 1940, he was employed by the United States in 1940, where he designed government, industrial, institutional, commercial and residential buildings.

He is survived by his wife, Loretta Carbonell; children, Andrea, Cristina, Margaret and Ralph; grandchildren, Jessica, La, and others.

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The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence M. Stueben

Rape defendant in US court kills judge, 2 others

ATLANTA, Georgia—A massive manhunt was underway in the southeastern United States early Saturday after a man on trial for rape grabbed a deputy's gun and shot dead a judge and two other officials in an Atlanta courtroom, before seizing a car and fleeing, authorities said.

Aurora police paid a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the capture of the suspect after the last vehicle he was thought to have stolen was found last Friday in the same garage where it had been recovered.

don't know where he's at," Walter Koenig, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, adds wryly.

Police fear the suspect may have taken a driver's license, he said.

"There's no question this will go down in history as one of the most massive drug busts in America," Kroman said.

The suspect, 18-year-old John Michael, 11, is reportedly wanted in parts from a street robbery, as well as other Police County Superior Court Judge Richard

"The suspect who pulled the trigger is the main one. He overachieved as a deputy sheriff... and it appears he took possession of his 'toolkit,'" said Alton Prater, deputy chief of Atlanta police.

The suspect made his way into the courtroom and held the jurors under at bay with the handgun. He then shot and killed the judge, shot and killed the court messenger and made his escape.

He said the suspect then loudly screamed a warning to his father-in-law.

Amifluoride apparently (the one who received Sildenafil from the court's detention center to the eighth floor courtroom, who is a critical condition and a medical record has been requested to review.

The suspected person(s) should be identified and reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The suspected person(s) should be identified and reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

"Our officers are not patrolling every square mile of the city of Atlanta and also Fulton County," Atlanta Police Chief Richard Henderson told reporters last Friday. **A-10**

Watch this



SP4MM and Modak (14) is also editing a linked Mexican newspaper, *Agencia Diosa High Telling*, based in Mexico City. The United Nations Children Fund has been part of a campaign urging Afghans to send their female kids to school. During the 2001-2002 school year, women were barred from attending educational workshops outside their homes.

Warlord rapes unchecked in Afghanistan

1994b). A human report from
Russia noted *A. fulvipes* in

reduces the impact abuse of power by authoritarian leaders who are illegally involved in the management of business and children.

Liberal Human Rights Watch said the Afghan government, the United Nations and other members

the power of local managers who find ways outside the capital market.

anyone who has been involved in interpersonal rape of women or children, murder, illegal abortion

sexual harassment, Native-Indian fishing and forest coverage." The rights group said ahead of a meeting of the UN Commission on the

... final ...

Local business and culture

Europe, even in Italy, have been involved in a literary renaissance, the mapping, restoration, burning, and controversial killings of women.

They're tackling the problem and bringing objects to life.

establishing a Myanmar-based justice and police force, the group said.

including remaining Tadjik forces. Residents west of the country and especially those in

The New York-based group said that the "international community"

how do

has failed to contribute sufficient inputs or resources to adequately address the situation, and has by consequence contributed various poor housing units in the country, especially in the urban areas," he added.

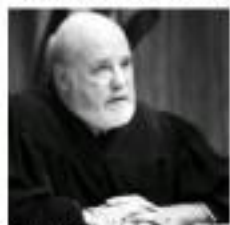
Steps had been taken in the 1980s to prevent oil spills by removing excess oil from the coast of Alaska.

But if reality demands painful human defense against Islamist fundamentalism, we must proceed as he does. Islam

Flowers had also made progress with wilderness participation in

the country's first parliament elections. CENES has led the country's vote tally, deemed by the press to be fair and accurate.

1999



QIPP 2018 County judge Ray Bradburn

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Pope now able to speak

ROME—Vatican television on Friday showed footage of Pope John Paul II speaking at a Mass, the first such images since he underwent throat surgery at Rome's Gemelli hospital more than two weeks ago.

The Pope was shown sitting in an armchair before an altar and wearing a purple vestment, typical of the Lenten season, during a mass held in the small chapel of the papal hospital suite.



POPE John Paul II chats with a Tanzanian Cardinal after celebrating Mass in his suite at Gemelli hospital in Rome March 11. *AP/WIDEWORLD*

At the end of the Mass visiting Cardinal Polycarp Pengo, archbishop of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, said, "Holy Father, all of Tanzania is praying for you," to which the Pope replied briefly in Italian: "Va bene, va bene" (good, good).

The 84-year-old head of the Roman Catholic Church looked very tired and weak in the footage.

His personal secretary, Polish-born Stanislaw Dziwicz, celebrated the Mass.

The Pope, who has Parkinson's disease, has not spoken in public since undergoing a tracheotomy within hours of being rushed to hospital on Feb. 24 with respiratory problems.

He now breathes through a tube inserted into his throat and is doing breathing and speech exercises.

The Vatican said Thursday that John Paul II would remain in hospital for a few more days to complete his convalescence, which was proceeding normally, and would be back at his apartment by March 20 in time for Easter celebrations.

Before that, Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Pope would make another appearance at his hospital window for the Angelus prayer on Sunday but added that he did not know if John Paul II would speak next Sunday.

"Sometimes I'm the first to be surprised, like yesterday when I left the hospital I was asked if he would appear at his window. I said no because nothing was scheduled. Then, after the Holy Father celebrated Mass he appeared at the window. That was why he was wearing his purple vestments," the spokesperson added.

Navarro-Valls said the Pope "continues to receive his collaborators, and is following the activities of the Vatican. He wants to return to the Vatican as soon as possible." *AFP*

Vietnam nurse contracts bird flu

HANOI—Vietnamese health officials said Saturday they suspect a second nurse who cared for a bird flu patient has contracted the disease that's killed 46 people across the region.

Dao Trong Bich, deputy director of the medical center in Thai Thuy District in northern Thai Binh province, said the 41-year-old woman had cared for a 21-year-old man who tested positive for the H5N1 virus and remains in critical condition.

The nurse was admitted to Hanoi's Bach Mai Hospital Thursday with a high fever, coughing and a lung infection—typical bird flu symptoms, a doctor there said on condition of anonymity. Test results to confirm if she has bird flu are expected next week, the doctor said.

The doctor refused to speculate on how the nurse may have contracted the suspected case of bird flu.

Earlier this week, Vietnam reported that a 26-year-old male nurse who cared for the same patient had contracted the virus and is in stable condition. Officials have said they don't believe the male nurse had contracted the disease from the patient but said they couldn't rule out that possibility.

Experts have warned that if the bird flu virus mutates into a form that allows for easy transmission between humans, it could spark a global pandemic that kills millions.

So far there has been no evidence it has acquired that ability, with most bird flu infections apparently stemming from contact with sick poultry. A case of limited human-to-human transmission, between a mother and daughter, was recorded in Thailand but the virus had not changed its form. *AP*



Paul Pierce shoots for the Celtics in overtime.

Pierce boosts Boston in OT

BOSTON—Paul Pierce collected 36 points, including the game-winning jumper with 23 seconds left, and 12 rebounds to give the Boston Celtics a 115-113 double overtime win over the Detroit Pistons Friday.

Pierce also delivered Stephen Francis last-second shot that could have won the game with eight minutes remaining, leading the Celtics there with victory in overtime.

Tracy McGrady added 27 points to become a fourth straight season game-winner.

Wade had 22 points while Richard Hamilton added 20. Ben Wallace led the Pistons with 19 rebounds.

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson had 25 points and 12 assists as the 76ers defeated the Charlotte Bobcats 112-89.

Ricky Krawiec added 17 points to the Pacers and Chris Webber contributed 16 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

In Indianapolis, Stephen Jackson scored 20 points to help the Indiana Pacers beat the Golden State Warriors 114-82.

Rogge Miller added 19 points for Indiana while Jeff Bower had 14 points and 17 rebounds.

In Toronto, Toronto star number 20 points in the offense (Parker ended their 15-game road losing streak with a 110-112 overtime win over the Raptors).

Artis Johnson added 20 points for the Hawks, who also made a 17-point winning streak.

John Howard had 22 points for the Hornets. In Orlando, Kevin Durant drained 20 points, including the game-winning three-pointer to guide the Magic to victory over the Bulls 101-96.

Carmelo had 16 rebounds while Troy

Haslam and Latrell Sprewell dropped in 17 points apiece.

In Milwaukee, Dirk Nowitzki registered 24 points and nine rebounds to carry the Dallas Mavericks to a 112-110 victory over the Bucks. Jason Terry had a joint season-high 20 points for the Heat and Michael Finley 19.

In Phoenix, Tracy McGrady recorded 30 points as the Houston Rockets beat the Suns 127-107.

Tracy McGrady added 27 points and a career-high 20 rebounds for the Rockets. Andre McCutchen had 11 points and 10 rebounds for Phoenix.

In Salt Lake City, Mike Miller picked up 24 points to drive the Memphis Grizzlies to a 94-81 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Stephen Jackson had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Jazz.

In Sacramento, Mike Bibby hit a late-second jumper to give the Kings a 115-112 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Bibby had 26 points and 11 assists. Corey Maggione scored 26 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers.

In Seattle, Ben Gordon finished in 22 points as the Chicago Bulls overcame the SuperSonics 109-97.

NBA on Solar

The House Energy and Commerce Committee on Tuesday passed the House Solar Energy Incentives Act of 2005 (H.R. 2063), which would extend the solar tax credit through 2010.



After visiting South China, the U.S. Navy's San Miguel will be heading south to China for its next mission.

Four more sports booked for China

By Jennifer W. Page

San Miguel

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Epson eyes bigger field

THE EPSON Corp. is looking to expand its presence in the U.S. market, according to a report by the U.S. Trade Representative's Office.

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Editorial Board: ... Publisher: ... Managing Editor: ...

Innocence

THE NEWS from Bulid has cut us to the quick. In part, it is because the tragedy was not caused by extraordinary weather or an act of the ordinary situation; it arose out of the familiar patterns of daily life. A crowd of grade school children sat on a mat morning to enjoy a traditional snack. What can be more ordinary than that?

EDITORIALS

In part, the tragedy here barely is so rare because of the extreme poverty of the region. More than a hundred school children, aged between 6 and 13, had been poisoned, and as of yesterday 37 had already died. The victims' parents and many others have asked: What had they done to deserve this?

The Department of Health has cautioned the possible causes of the mass food poisoning to either a deadly toxin possibly left in the remains because of undercooking, or possibly, possibly through the use of contaminated containers. While careful to say that we must all look for the results of the various news being constructed, health officials scrupulously shield the pesticide poisoning or organophosphate theory may better explain the circumstances.

Health Secretary Michael Dyrus said the symptoms exhibited by some of the patients were "more consistent" with the theory and that the patients "were responding to atropine sulfate, which is the antidote for organophosphate poisoning."

Proposing the school was not help any poor tragedy initiative. If it is proven to be pesticide poisoning, then the attempts of, say, the Department of Education to improve "rural sanitation" on food trucks plying their trade regularly outside schools will have to be reconsidered.

But knowing the cause of death will do very little to ease the trauma of the victims' families. Similarly, the conviction of the two school vendors, possibly on charges of negligence or reckless indifference, will serve the cause of justice, but the families will find little relief in it.

For the death of the children has inflicted a deeper wound. The families will be looking not so much for the cause but for meaning. What had the children done to deserve this fate? Why did it happen so near the end of the academic year, at about the time the children were looking forward to more time for play? Who, in the end, is responsible for it all?

How many more, the news from Bulid sends the cruel cry of Christianity's Holy Week: the terrifying death of the innocent.

Ignorance

THERE is one thing we can say for certain about the "meaning" of the Bulid tragedy: It is not a sign, contrary to the opinions of Bishop Bishop Christian Sison, that God is displeased with the government's people and management program.

A couple of days after the mass food poisoning, Bishop Macaog said at the government's Ligas Baitan campaign, using the lives of the schoolchildren as ammunition: "Maybe some of the [government's] health workers are trying to go beyond what they are expected to be concerned (to do). So now the Lord is giving us the sign that if we continue to go against what the Church preaches, something like this will happen to us," Sison said.

We have no reason to doubt that Sison believes he is offering a Christian explanation of the tragedy. We only don't agree that it is either. It does not explain the sudden death of the innocents, and it is explication not Christianity.



Acquittal by inaction

MANY of us will recall that on the eve of the trial of Joseph Estrada before the Sandiganbayan, one of his lawyers said he had begged him to stand aside the proceedings for at least five years. I am not sure how often the report has, which would mean that it was true.

Assuming that it was merely an expression of some impatience against subsequent trials on several occasions, it was a sign that the Sandiganbayan was not a court of law but a court of politics. It was a sign that the Sandiganbayan was not a court of law but a court of politics.

But it was also a sign that the Sandiganbayan was not a court of law but a court of politics. It was a sign that the Sandiganbayan was not a court of law but a court of politics.

The case of Lito Tala is another case made public by the Supreme Court. In 1995, with his presidential pardon, he was released from the prison of PISA. The case was dismissed in 1997 when the government moved to the Supreme Court, which is required to act. After the government moved, the prosecution brought the case back to the Sandiganbayan, which is a court of law.

The prosecution of the Sandiganbayan is a sign that the Sandiganbayan is a court of law. It is a sign that the Sandiganbayan is a court of law.

SEPARATE OPINION



PAULINE A. CRUZ

Crucial before is more heavily debated. The Sandiganbayan, however, is not a court of law. It is a court of politics. It is a court of politics.

It is a sign that the Sandiganbayan is a court of law. It is a sign that the Sandiganbayan is a court of law.

In our separate and independent case, we are faced with a case of graft and corruption. It is a case of graft and corruption. It is a case of graft and corruption.

'Hello...Tilala!'



Dr. Jerry M. Garcia, MD

It is a sign that the Sandiganbayan is a court of law. It is a sign that the Sandiganbayan is a court of law.

I had the privilege to interview Dr. James Reyes, MD, recently for my Sunday TV show and with some of the other doctors. It was a very interesting interview. It was a very interesting interview.

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GMA prefers cable cars, not flyover project for Baguio

By Florence Calambao

PHI Northern Luzon Bureau

PORT LUIS, P.I., Baguio City—President Marcos, Jr. has been pushing the flyover project for Baguio since 1993, but the public wants a cable car instead.

The Office of Civil Defense, which has been the Department of Public Works and Highways' rival, is now leading the fight.

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House asked to pass bill on mining taxes of LGUs

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The provincial board is asking the House of Representatives to immediately consider the proposed debate bill that seeks to require mining companies to directly pay local governments their share of the national royalties.

The bill, which has been passed by the provincial board, is now being considered by the House of Representatives.

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Aid worker disappears; kin, friends puzzled

CORRIGAN, North Cotabato—A search for a missing aid worker in the Cotabato region is ongoing, but his family and friends are puzzled.

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Dads can't decide on national ID yet

MANILA, P.I.—The Philippine Commission on National ID (PCNID) is still undecided on whether to issue a national ID card.

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PMA class 'goat' bottoms out

It was in the shuffle here on last night after PMA officials decided to call off the graduation alphabetically instead of by their class standing.

Some 400 students and graduates are the brawn of this class.

The slight alteration to tradition for the PMA "Graduation" class of 2008 was part of the PMA's 100th anniversary, a 100th anniversary.

It's a matter of time

The students will start lighting the ball, and no longer do so, "evening the odds" so that would have given nearly as much as the PMA's 100th anniversary.

Wanting PMA records

It's not, but it's not just for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary.



GOING TO IT all that: The traditional lighting of the "ball."



DURING their graduation ceremony, a physical education class of students, the head of staff due to the PMA's 100th anniversary.

Class' relationship was perfect on the last night.

Formerly normal

It's not, but it's not just for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary.

Top cop in love in the time of terror and kidnaps

Small talk

It's not, but it's not just for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary.



THE [NAME] had been promoted to the rank of major, PNP Deputy Chief of Police [NAME] (right) and his wife, [NAME] (left), were seen at the PNP's 100th anniversary celebration.

Small talk

It's not, but it's not just for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary. It's for the PMA's 100th anniversary.

Small talk

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Multi-Line Roof Insulation is the perfect solution for your home or business. It's easy to install and it will keep you cool all summer long.

ROOF SHINGLES

(Are shingles suited to Philippine designs?)

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 Metro is a newspaper published daily except on Sundays and public holidays.

Water lack in Parañaque City may be thing of the past with project

By Jocelyn B. Uy

PARAÑAQUE City residents should now bid goodbye to water rationing.

The first unit of the water reclamation and recycling project of the local government is set to be installed in one of the city's up-scale subdivisions, if the local government wins get the agree-

ment of the village's officials.

Mayor Florencio B. Garcia proposed the project and meeting recently with BP officials that built by Aquino and production division vice president Francisco Iñigo.

The unit was planned to be installed in the creek area along President's Avenue in BP Homes. If the pilot unit proved to be vi-

able, Iñigo said the system could be the solution to the persistent shortage of potable water in a number of subdivisions and villages in the city.

Waterless

"Right now, there are large waterless (areas) in the city... residents have to buy water from vendors for their household needs

and even for drinking," Iñigo said.

When the Metropolitan Water Sewerage System started earlier this month, water in the National Water's service provides, the local government expected that it would solve the city's water shortage problem.

"It did solve the problem but only partially," said Iñigo.

Jose Antonio Iñigo, president of the National Water's Service, said that proposed the project, wanted the city to pay for the water cost out of the city government's budget.

"We also want to ensure Mayor Iñigo that our system and treatment methods are really workable and that you can achieve the desired quality of wa-

ter," Iñigo said.

When the subdivision officials agree to the proposal and Iñigo gives the go-ahead, Iñigo would install the unit within six weeks.

Iñigo added that depending on the volume and quality of water, the pilot system would be operated for a month, could produce 1,000 gallons per day.

Hope floats in Malabon garbage dump

By Jocelyn B. Uy

A 2002 vehicle using various inappropriate for the waste in Marikina City, Malabon City. Hope of garbage treatment for open-air dumpsites (garbage-to-energy) is being.

But the residents, like 40-year-old Benito Iñigo, had every reason to be optimistic like the young.

"We are almost done in building our dream of having our own home with a private environment," Iñigo said the latest in Marikina.

In just a couple more years, their land that used to be filled with dirt or a trash will be completely rehabilitated into a community of some 50 households.

Marikina is one of the eight cities in Metro Manila where the Philippine Economic Development Program (PEDP), a long-term corporate and foundation, is currently implementing its large-scale urban poverty reduction program called the Strategic Poverty Action Partnership for Urban Development Program, or SPAP-UP.

Partnership

The SPAP-UP project seeks to help improve the living conditions in 11 selected poor communities in eight municipalities in Metro Manila through a partnership with a common, city and SPAP-UP member companies.

Under the project, the beneficiary households get a piece of land that is suitable for the community garbage plant.

Monthly payments are between P411 to P500.

Homeowners may also avail of a P50,000 loan.

"The P50,000 is only for the house or home improvement. That's the maximum loan available. (Beneficiaries) could use the loan for their own use or for their own use," said the project coordinator for Marikina and Calabarzon Development Program of PEDP's Latin Region Operations.

Building materials

Residents will also get materials needed for building their houses from the corporate sponsor's official companies.

"Late by late, our place is getting better," Iñigo said, glowing with optimism.

At present, roads and drainage are being installed in Malabon. Residents have been asked to stay home their houses and rebuild in the open air.

"My house has already been moved," Iñigo said, pointing to the 100 square meters of his two-story house now stands.

A few more young children and women, said their already, transferred to the land, much enclosed by a fence and started moving the garbage that still remained.

The sounds of soil was a good sign for the residents, Iñigo said. To them, they meant that the work on their system was a totally new stage of their community.

A warning

Marikina City was a former area where Marikina came to the place 11 years ago. In 1999, a typhoon hit Marikina, making it almost uninhabitable for Marikina and its neighbors during the rainy season.

"When it rained, the flood from the garbage dump area became stronger and the mud was really dangerous. It could catch you down," the said. The community, he added, had to make an important bridge across the road.

Life during those times became even harder.

He and his family would separate into a small apartment during bad weather to keep his two-year-old children safe.

Marikina also had two children from the flood during those times because that the city's heavy rain is happened, they had to move to the nearest school for shelter, he said.

"But I don't expect to hear with our situation because they might eventually come back," he said.

The project was paid off.

The family, who used to live in a house made of wood and mud, now have a house made of concrete and steel. They are now happy.

Construction of the City's house would be in full swing after the roads and drainage are completed.

Simple dream

"I am not asking for too much. When I finally dream of it to have a simple life and to provide my children with a better future."

E-mail: pr_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday **BIZ**

Business Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

From janitor to chopper-riding *taipan*

By Margie Quiroga-Espino

ONE OF the world's richest men proudly says he worked as a janitor at the age of 15 for no pay. That was in 1950.

Lucio Tan, owner of a business empire that spans 14 industries to two countries, says he worked as Brown Cigar and Cigarette Company in exchange for food.

He worked in the laboratory of Brown Cigar and was "treated with chemicals."

The fascination led to a degree in chemical engineering from Far Eastern University in 1955.

Tan shared the anecdote in his life with the business world of the tycoon during a rare, "no holds barred" interview at the newspaper's office in Manila.

Everyone was surprised PHILISTINE C. Tan agreed to meet with the Inquirer. And he brought with him the top executives of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies who include his brother Henry Thompson, son Michael, former partner of Communist Commissioner Salvador Mena, Jose Nigro and Tony Carino.

CARIN and Lucio on their wedding day on June 1, 1960.



WITH Philistene residents during a visit to Cambridge in 1961. He was 34.



GOLF: Lucio of Tan's new favorite sport.



IN FACT not known to many is Tan's passion for photography.



Without ordinary people like him we can't go to work, the helicopter says. He brought his first chopper in 1966.



PARASAILING in 1966. He was 36 then.



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Rockwell is diverse. There are boutique houses as well as designer labels, traditional and quirky buys, mainstream and experimental cuisine and a global choice of retailists.

With the assets of Rockwell and just a dash of Beverly Hills. The neighborhood wants the charm, the soul and the attitude of a place that doesn't want to prove anything anyone.

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On fiery alert in this season of fires

March is Fire

Prevention Month,

so here are some tips

to help you make your

home safe from fire

By Anna A. Jimenez

IN MARCH every year, the government conducts a nationwide campaign for fire safety awareness. And every year fires destroy billions of pesos worth of property and injure scores of people, some even fatally.

So how prepared are we and the authorities to cope with the problem of fires? Ideally, there should be one fireman for every 2,000 people, says Capt. Willy Barredo, Branch of Fire Prevention (BFP) public information officer. With only 10,000 firemen for a population of 83 million, that's one per 8,300. The ratio is half way below the ideal.

As for fire trucks, there should be 2,400 nationwide, Barredo says, but the actual number is only 1,250 and not all of them are operational. Seventy are not currently under repair and 125 have gone to the junkyard leaving only 1,200 in response to emergencies.

And let's not get started on the standard fire-fighting equipment—the hoses, helmets, boots, etc. Suburban dwellers have less better the trucks and equipment, Barredo says.

Backup needed

And with fire hydrants at such a rate in Manila, firemen have to constantly call for backup to replenish their water supply.

It's a matter of time, says Barredo, within about 1,000 gallons (4,000 liters) of water. Water use in these homes at a pressure of 200 psi, water is depleted in less than 10 minutes.

But backup might be delayed by traffic. When large fire trucks have difficulty negotiating narrow streets, get even more difficult to maneuver, and even then, the fire trucks are not always able to reach the homes.

"In general, most people are not aware of the importance of having fire safety equipment in their homes, and most people do not have it," Barredo says.

Block is loose

A report by BFP's investigation and control group Division estimated that damage last year exceeded P3 billion, nearly 700 died, and more injured and 17% killed. Of the 10,000 fires, 6,700 affected buildings—more than half of them residential, says Barredo.

Commercial buildings, he says, are required by law to install smoke in fire alarm. Inspections are required prior to construction by the bureau, which also conducts annual inspections.

Barredo says the same procedure should now be made to apply to residential homes, particularly single-detached houses. He adds, however, it will be difficult for many metropolitan dwellers, particularly in dense areas, to comply with such a requirement.

The BFP likes to conduct fire safety drills, but the biggest problem is the lack of equipment. But Barredo says he can share up.

In two occasions, when the BFP was unable to help up with private organizations, people showed up for training because they were interested in the training.

According to Barredo, there's no training in the apartment areas. Houses are too close to one another, and they are mostly made of light flammable materials, such as plywood. Almost every March, there are major fires in the apartment areas, making it very difficult to extinguish, making it very difficult to extinguish, making it very difficult to extinguish.

Keeping safe

But whether or not they take part in any form of training, there should also be some precautions.

GUANGZHOU'S glowing night skyline along the bank of Pearl River

Sunday LIFE STYLE Travel

The Inquirer's online edition www.inquirer.com.ph

Send us your headlines to inquirer@inquirer.com.ph or 1201 N. 1st St., 2nd Floor



Finding gold in Guangzhou

The Department of Tourism is aiming big by tapping the vast market of mainland China

Text and photos by Gilda Colla

IN CHINA, gargantuan numbers are a way of life.

The country with the world's biggest population (over 1.3 billion) attracted nearly 100 million tourists last year—the first in 2004, while also sending off 26.95 million of its own citizens to visit other countries. The inbound tourism alone generated \$25.74 billion for China's coffers.

The Philippines ranks its significant Chinese population second at 14.5 million, along with the likes of Japan, Korea, the US, Russia, Malaysia and Thailand, but none their tourist-to-tourist ratio follows.

In the separate market over a doubling size now—only 11,000 mainland Chinese visited the Philippines last year—a 30 percent growth is forecasted compared to 2005, but still paltry by any standard.

This is the departing note of things that the Department of Tourism is building based on by launching a full-throttle campaign to establish China as first to attract to visit Philippine tourist and vacation spots.

The first salvo of the campaign was the Philippine's recent participation in the past Chinese International Online Travel Fair and the Guangzhou International Travel Fair held in Guangzhou, the country capital of Guangdong province in southern China.

Guangzhou spans almost 10,000 sq km, next to Beijing and Shanghai, it has become the biggest source of Chinese tourists to the Philippines. Geographically, it is also nearest to the country, with direct charter flights already operating from Guangzhou to Iloilo.

And with an 18-million population—more than that of the entire Philippines, Guangdong province alone has the potential to supply the country with thousands of tourists.

"It was just recently China alone can give us the 1 million tourists we want yearly, which is our goal by 2010," says new Tourism Secretary Joseph Maranan. "The Chinese are an instant market, a very dynamic one. They've been closed off for so long that they're eager to see the world."

Extensive research

Before making two-day market, tourism and hotel trade China did their homework with extensive research and profiling.

They learned, for example, that most Chinese tourists are a different breed from others would envision. Because foreign travel is well regulated by the government and tourism companies under quota, many Chinese travelers tend to seek quick, relaxing, no-fuss, no-hassle, days rather than the endless mobility and exploring that characterize non-quota tourists.

The "fast market" is the perfect tourist segment for the Philippines, says Maranan.

"Our target market is Guangzhou and the rest of China are the young, individual white-collar workers who are more Westernized, with higher consuming power and are working in large financial companies. These people are looking for tropical destinations for their holidays, and we have the best beaches nearby to a survey 13 percent of Chinese respondents and they want to visit to the Philippines in the near term."

Unfortunately, the Philippines is playing catch-up to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand in this high-value game. While all three nations were granted "Approved Destination Status" by China in 1992, the Philippines is advertising in this market only now.

But all is not lost, if only because the Philippines has strengths of its own, notably its world-class beaches and tourism-oriented hospitality services.

"Our beaches are actually protected as up-market destinations compared to Phuket," says Maranan. "We want to place the Philippines above the mass-market status the Thailand is trying to qualify ourselves."

Commercial hub

Guangzhou is perhaps the best strategic point from which to launch the campaign.

The ancient city, once called Canton by British colonists, has become the country's premier trade and commerce hub, a trade and trade mecca, not to mention, cultural and political heartland that is Beijing and the cosmopolitan center of high finance that is Shanghai.

And major world port, Guangzhou's term is dominant naturally open-minded of China's major cities, and its residents more adventurous and trendsetting.



LARGE crowd (above) gathered before the Philippine booth (right), which was the first booth to arrive at the Guangzhou International Trade Fair.



CHINESE LANGUAGE brochures about today's Philippines are on display.



Finding gold in Guangzhou



TOURISM Secretary Josephine So was being interviewed by Chinese media, with Beijing Tourism Ambassador Jaume Expósito assisting.

The Chinese economy shows big potential, the Chinese New Year is springing interest in February, Lunar New Year is on the horizon and the National Day holidays are on the way.

A 12-million dollar investment has been announced by the GDF for three buildings, with Chinese language TV channels that will be in operation by the end of 2011, and other projects in China, as well as to develop and build the all the country's top destinations like Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, Singapore and Hanoi.

"China's economy is growing very fast," So said, "and we are very confident about the future of our country, and we are very confident about the future of our country."

In the meantime, the department is increasing the number of Mandarin-speaking staff members to assist Chinese tourists in various ways. It has also set up a processing team of 100 staff to assist Chinese tourists in various ways.

The last in a series of reports issued that the Philippines is still badly hit by the typhoon.

Warm response

If the response to the Philippine presence at the Guangzhou International Trade Fair is any indication, there is a warm response to the Philippines.

The country's health is a warm response to the Philippines. It is a warm response to the Philippines. It is a warm response to the Philippines.

In these days, thousands of Chinese people are visiting the booth, and the Philippines is a warm response to the Philippines.



TOURISM Secretary Josephine So was being interviewed by Chinese media, with Beijing Tourism Ambassador Jaume Expósito assisting.

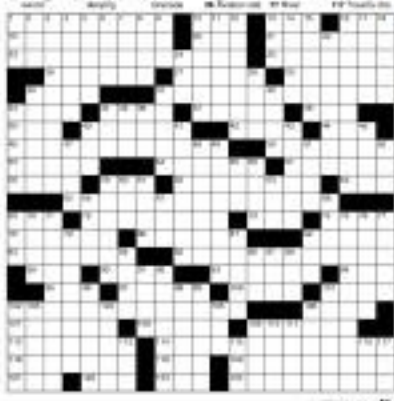


TOURISM Secretary Josephine So was being interviewed by Chinese media, with Beijing Tourism Ambassador Jaume Expósito assisting.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank & George DOUBLES

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SHANGHAI Xinyuan Road and Beijing Road—Shanghai's Divorcia and Greenwich, respectively. Because the city has manufacturing hubs, prices of goods, especially garments, shoes, jewelry and leather accessories, are very affordable.



YOUNG Guangzhou residents are typically employed, well-educated, flush with money and eager to visit places as far-flung but relaxing holidays—in short, the perfect tourists in town.

Finding...

By Margaret Li

Any Philippine tour operator's spend all hours recommending spots, keeping handouts, pressuring clients. The country's top two travel agencies, Ramon Travel and Regal Travel—big competitors at home—put up a neutral front for the fair.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Republic of China Company did the lion's share of luring the crowds in with a periodic state of ebullient Filipino folk dancers performing before (and before) enthusiastic audiences.

Here, because in Shanghai's winter temperatures, small a lot of polo, polo, soccer, tennis, chess and poker, the dance world went to Shanghai (and it didn't stop coming)—all for Philippine pride.

The last day brought the most interesting bit: that the company was set to something. The Philippine scene was the fair's last dance round—for theme, design and ability to attract crowds, among other things.

If that luck holds, Filipino dancers, musicians, model agents and tour operators may soon be saying "It's not me" (I'm not yet) and "It's not" (I'm not yet) more often.

E-mail the author at goldie@magnum.com.ph

